

Minutes of Public Works Committee Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Attending: Rob Crowner (Chair), Vince O'Connor, Guilford Mooring, Michael Cann, Don George, Charlie Moran, Stephen Braun, Stephanie O'Keefe (Select Board liaison)

Guest: Tracy Zafian

Administrative

Next meeting; Nov. 18th.

Minutes of 9/9 approved 5-0.

Committee agreed to send a card of appreciation for long-time committee member Stephen Puffer. Mr. O'Connor agreed to purchase a card and bring to the next meeting.

Cottage Street Meeting

Meeting was held to discuss parking in the vicinity of the High School and, in particular, the proposal to limit on-street parking on Cottage Street to either the east or west side.

Mr. Crowner, who attended, reported that citizens tended to focus on their own street only.

Mr. Mooring reported the following: more discussion is required before any recommendations can be made regarding parking changes on High Street; residents of Cottage Street seem split between those favoring parking on east v. west sides, with the split occurring roughly half-way up the street; no changes in parking rules seem needed on other streets at this time.

Report from Road Condition Sub-Committee

Mr. Braun distributed a draft memo which summarizes the conclusions of the sub-committee formed earlier this year to examine in detail the town's options for making headway on the repair of the town's streets.

Several committee members made helpful editorial suggestions, which Mr. Braun agreed to implement in a revised memo.

In response to a question about whether the actual list of town streets and their repair should be submitted with the memo, Mr. Mooring said that a detailed report on the condition of the town roads will be presented to the PWC for its consideration. After

approval by the Committee, the list and the memo will be submitted to the Select Board for consideration.

Mr. Crowner asked Mr. Mooring how long it will take for the town to catch up on needed road repairs if funding for such repairs is found. Mr. Mooring replied that it would take at least 1 and more probably 2 years, assuming an expenditure of roughly \$2 million each year.

Mr. Moran advocates an assertive approach to funding the paving projects, despite bonding difficulties due to economic downturn.

Mr. Braun will revise the memo and send it to Mr. Mooring, who will include it with the package to be delivered to the Select Board.

Leverett Road bridge update: Bridge should be open by middle of November, with planting of wetland vegetation to occur in spring of '09.

Parking spaces on N. Pleasant update: Mr. Mooring reported that the town manager has agreed to drop the issue, and is not asking the committee for any further recommendation.

East Pleasant St. paving update: Mr. Mooring reported that East Pleasant St. from the intersection with Triangle Street south through downtown will be repaved next year. The Triangle/E. Pleasant St. intersection itself is not currently included in that project.

West Street/Pomeroy Lane

Mr. Crowner reported that the town's Design Review Board has been taking the lead in reviewing the proposed re-design of the Route 116 (West St.)/Pomeroy Lane intersection. He noted that he has attended several prior meetings on this project and that a public hearing will be held to discuss the issue further on October 30th.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen Braun
Secretary *pro tem*